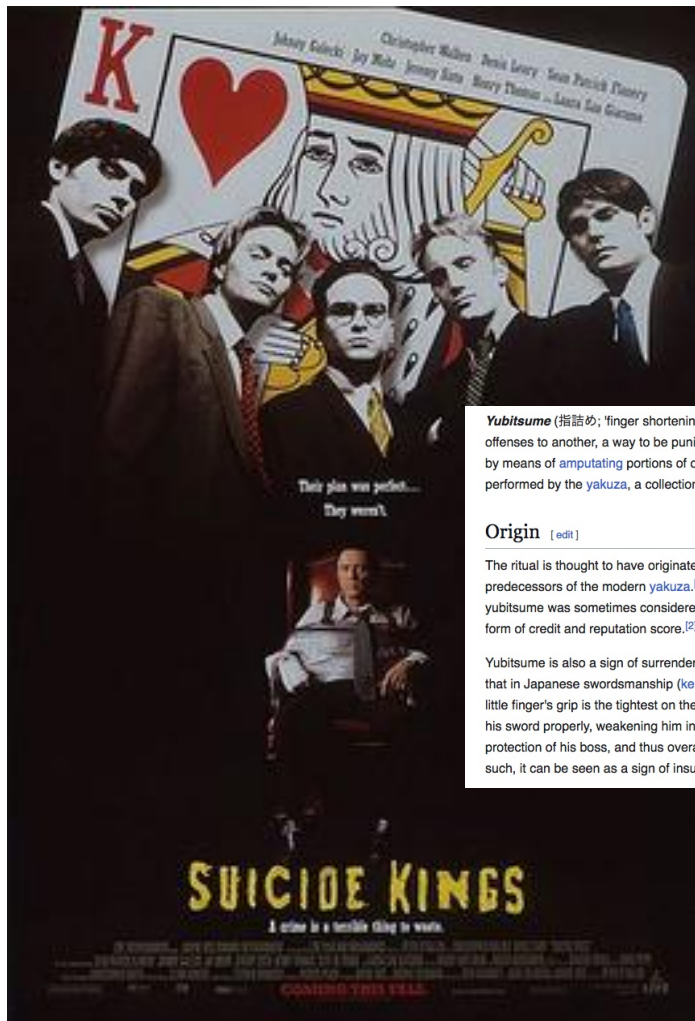


October 16, 2025: On Tonight's Movie - Suicide Kings

Based on	<i>The Hostage</i> by Don Stanford
----------	---------------------------------------

When Charlie wakes up, he sees himself surrounded by the three men, and a fourth friend, T. K., who checks his vital signs. It is revealed that Charlie is Carlo Bartolucci, a former mob figure. The boys explain that Avery's sister, Elise, has been kidnapped, and that the kidnappers are demanding a \$2 million ransom for her release. Unable to come up with the money on such short notice, they figure Charlie still has connections to get the money and set up an exchange. To ensure that Charlie knows how serious they are, Charlie is shown his cut-off finger, still wearing his signet ring, and is told that the same was done to Elise.



Yubitsume (指詰め; "finger shortening") or *otoshimae* is a Japanese ritual to atone for offenses to another, a way to be punished or to show sincere apology and remorse to another, by means of amputating portions of one's own little finger. In modern times, it is primarily performed by the yakuza, a collection of Japanese criminal organizations.^[1]

Origin [edit]

The ritual is thought to have originated with the bakuto, itinerant gamblers who were predecessors of the modern yakuza.^[2] If a person was unable to pay off a gambling debt, yubitsume was sometimes considered an alternative form of repayment. Yubitsume was a form of credit and reputation score.^[2]

Yubitsume is also a sign of surrender by the defeated in a yakuza war. The reason for this is that in Japanese swordsmanship (kendo and iaido), the sword cannot be held tightly, and the little finger's grip is the tightest on the hilt. A little-finger amputee was therefore unable to grip his sword properly, weakening him in battle and making him more dependent on the protection of his boss, and thus overall weakening the family's ability to fight in a war.^[2] As such, it can be seen as a sign of insurance of compliance with the terms of truce imposed upon the loser by the victor.

